

12601

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Department of State

TELEGRAM

F770004-0045

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INFO: Amembassy BRASILIA
Amembassy BUENOS AIRES
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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

PRIORITY

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STATE

LIMDIS

SUBJECT: Mitrione Kidnapping

REF: Montevideo (a) 1547, (b) 1556

1. On August 4, Ambassador Luisi advised Crimmins that he has limited his reporting to Montevideo to his impressions of official Washington and U.S. press reaction to kidnappings and that he has made no repeat no recommendations to date to GOU. Luisi indicated that until Mitrione kidnapping he was of QUOTE no negotiations with kidnappers UNQUOTE policy; however, faced with actual case involving foreign diplomats, finds this difficult position sustain. Nonetheless, deeply troubled by acceding to MLN demands ~~under Uruguayan Constitution~~ ^{due independence judiciary} ~~under Uruguayan Constitution~~ Believes

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ARA/APU:DW Cox:IGTragen:hsm

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8/4/70

TEL EXT.

20467

APPROVED BY:

ARA:JH Crimmins

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY

DATE 4-22-83

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EXT. DATE

REASON(S)

EXISTING MARKINGS

UNCLASSIFIED

RELEASED

PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

FORM DS-322

4-58



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QUOTE capitulation UNQUOTE would:

(1) destroy Pacheco personally and politically, forcing his resignation or overthrow by military;

(2) cause replacement of Pacheco by an ineffective military government for several months during which time the old-line politicians would maneuver to gain favor with the ~~TUPAK~~ Tupamaros; and

(3) result in a new GOU which either accommodates to or is led by Tupamaros.

2. Crimmins: (1) stressed throughout that USG is now basically in expectant posture, putting reliance on GOU assurances to us that it would do everything within its power to bring about Mittrione's return, waiting for definition GOU position, and making special effort to keep informed; (2) expressed full understanding and sympathy for anguish GOU undergoing but noted it is also anguishing for us; (3) wondered whether possible factor to be assessed in connection domestic political effects of

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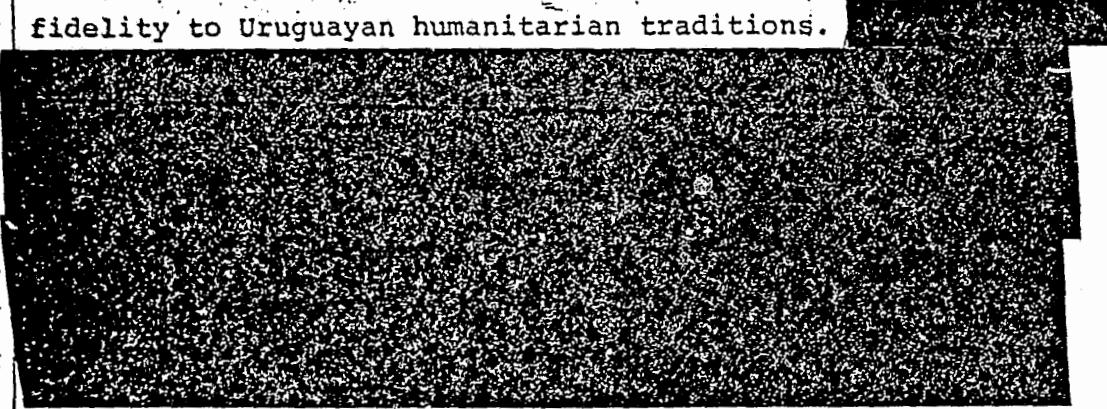
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PAGE 3

eventual GOU decision would be long-standing Uruguayan humanitarian and democratic traditions respectful of human life which had contributed so much to Uruguay's international image. Referring to Ambassador Adair's observation to Peirano about past utility of intermediaries, Crimmins speculated that by at least indicating disposition to deal through intermediaries, GOU would maintain image of regime respectful of humanitarian values. Noted that it was conceivable at least theoretically that a negotiated arrangement which reduced MLN price might meet GOU needs by demonstrating GOU firmness and at same time reflecting fidelity to Uruguayan humanitarian traditions.



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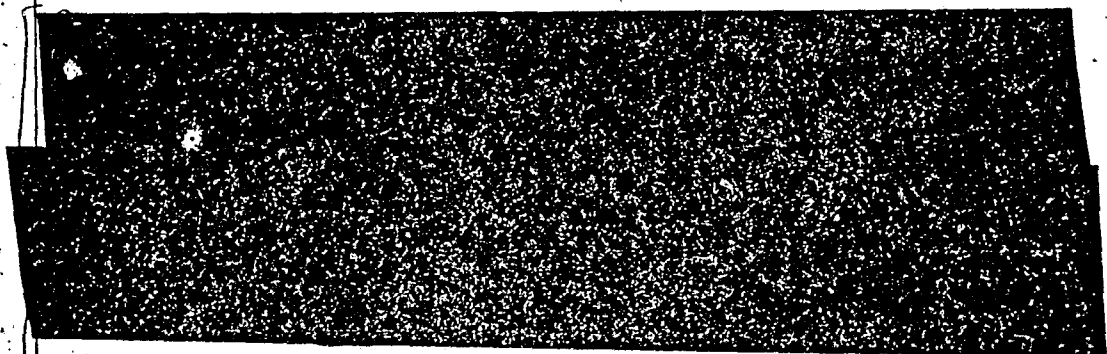
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3. Ambassador Luisi noted that if the arms cache discovered August 3 were large, and especially if identified as coming from Naval Training Center raided May 29, GOU's position would be strengthened, tending put GOU more in position of strength vis-a-vis MLN, which more conducive to magnanimous posture than position of weakness.

4. Although initial reports indicate arms cache seized small, general proposition that GOU would likely be more flexible on negotiations from position of strength rather than weakness is worth bearing in mind.

5. Would appreciate Embassy appraisal of Luisi's opinions and your views of consequences to GOU of its various

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options (i.e., acceptance MLN terms, negotiations XX
to reduce terms leading to release some prisoners, re-
jection of release of prisoners after negotiation, flat
rejection of negotiations or release of prisoners or
other options you see open to GOU)..

END

GP-3

ROGERS

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PER F. Devine

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DATE 5/16/77

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